

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 1, 2018

Vocabulary
Vital: full of energy;
lively



Jesus The Lion of Judah

Scripture Reading:
Luke 24:1-12; Matthew
28:18-20

On the third morning
after Jesus' crucifixion,

the women went to the tomb in order to cover His body with the burial spices of their custom. When they arrived, they found the large stone which served to seal the tomb rolled away and the body of Jesus gone. Looking around in confusion, they saw two men in shining garments standing by. The women bowed down in great fear, but the angels said gently to them,

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen:

remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

Memory Verse

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:6

Key Thought

Jesus, the Lion of Judah, has risen in mighty power, and conquered sin and death.

Immediately they remembered Jesus' words and went to tell the rest of the disciples the good news of Easter morning. However, the disciples brushed off their explanation of

Lesson Discussion

- What do you think it would have been like to see the empty tomb of Jesus on Easter morning?
- What attributes of a lion does Jesus possess?
- What is the first step in partaking of Jesus power? Does He want us to stop there?
- What is the second step? Name some practical ways you can apply His power in this way.

what they had seen as idle tales until Peter himself ran to the tomb and saw the linen burial clothes lying in the place of Jesus' body.

Can you imagine being there that morning? The very day that Jesus conquered death and sin and rose again to bring power and victory to the lives of His followers! What a mighty display of power.

Did you know that the Bible refers to Jesus as a lion?

A verse in Revelation says that the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed.

Lions are often referred to as the "king" of beasts, and they are truly remarkable. The male lion can weigh up to 400 pounds, be nine feet long, run up to 30 miles per hour, jump 12 feet into the air and 36 feet horizontally, and run at a temperature of 101 degrees Fahrenheit. They reside at the top of the food chain in their habitat and are incredibly intelligent when it comes to finding food. They sound pretty impressive, don't they? They're vital animals.

It's kind of hard to think of Jesus in terms of the lion because He is such a gentle teacher and leader, but His power is beyond what we can comprehend. Not only did He rise from the dead, but He broke the power of sin in the lives of His beloved creation. No longer does Satan have the ability to corrupt and destroy, for the death of the Son of God brings victory to every person who has given their lives to Him.

Just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told the disciples, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection was more than just to allow His followers to live a life free from sin.

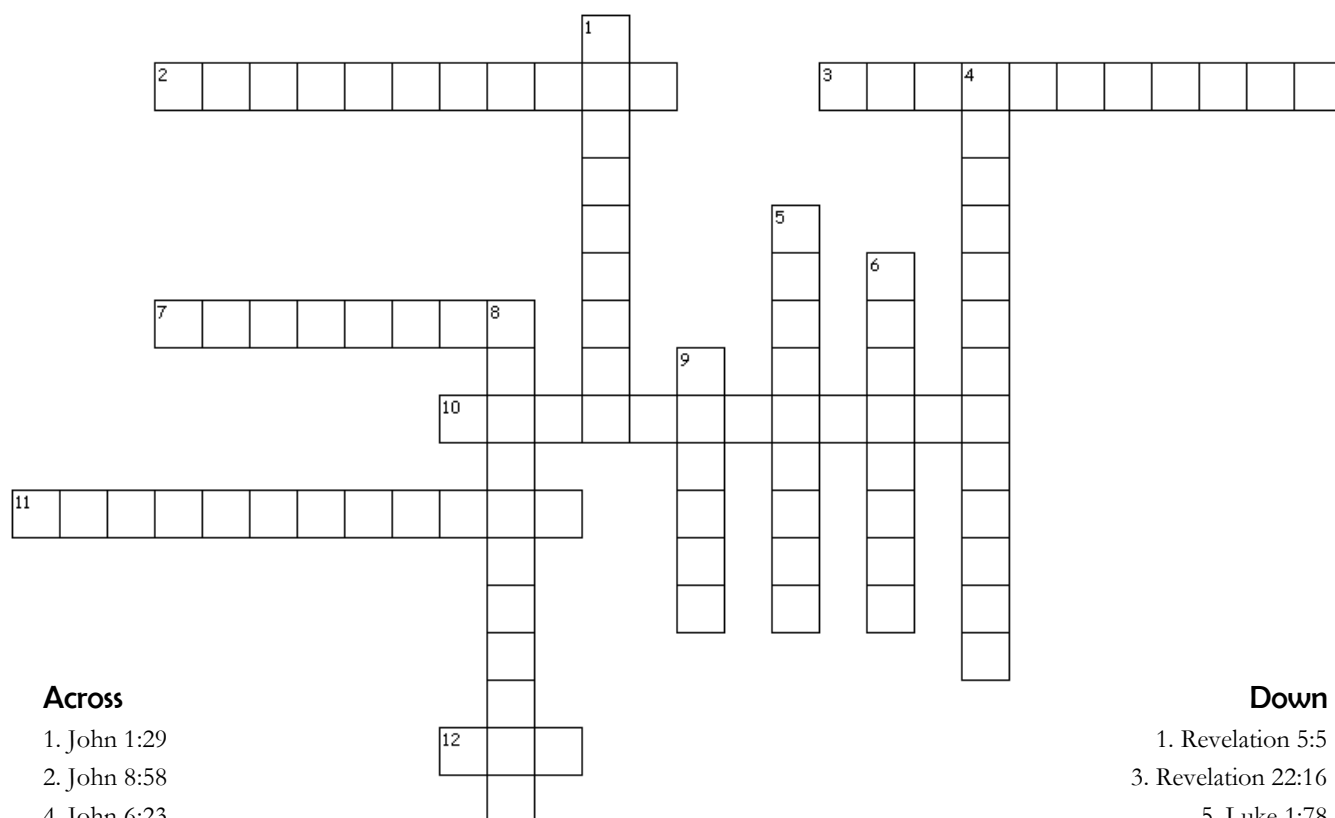
Yes, it was the first chapter in the story of salvation, but Jesus wasn't satisfied with just that. He wanted His disciples to GO. He wanted them to SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS! Our jobs as blood-washed Christians is more than to get saved and be joyful in our own salvation. Jesus paid the price for the entire world and He wants US to go and share the gospel.

Jesus, the Lion of Judah, who was slain and rose again, promised you all the power in heaven and earth, and He promised He would be with you unto the end of the world. Follow His commission and tell others of the incredible, life-changing power of His resurrection.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

THE MANY NAMES OF JESUS

The Bible uses a lot of different names to refer to Jesus. Look up the references below to learn some of the names of Jesus!

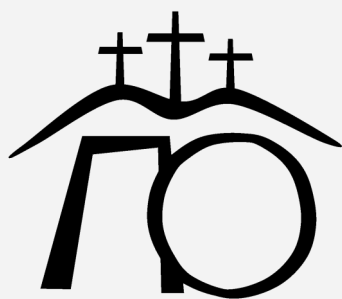


Across

1. John 1:29
2. John 8:58
4. John 6:23
6. John 10:11
8. Genesis 49:10
9. Song of Solomon 2:1
11. Revelation 1:8

Down

1. Revelation 5:5
3. Revelation 22:16
5. Luke 1:78
7. John 15:1
10. Isaiah 7:14



Easter Scavenger Hunt!

If the weather is nice, you can allow the children to complete the scavenger hunt outside. If the weather is poor, you can collect

the items and hide them around your Sunday school classroom or any unused rooms in your chapel building. Have the children race to find each item and check them off their individual lists, leaving each item where they found it.

- Something black—represents sin
- Bread—Jesus broke bread with His disciples
- Leaf—like the palm leaves laid in the street for Jesus
- Silver Coins—Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 coins
- 2 sticks—Jesus' cross
- Something red—Jesus' blood
- Nails—Jesus was nailed to the cross
- Rock—Tomb
- White cloth—Jesus' linen left in the tomb

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 8, 2018



Message from the Bible Introducing the Beatitudes

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed..." (Matthew 5:1-3a)

It can be an exciting thing to receive a personal message from a friend or family member! People receive messages many ways—by card or letter, by text, by phone call, by a hand-delivered note, or maybe face-to-face. People have even written messages, put them in bottles and thrown them into the ocean, hoping the currents would sweep them away, and then eventually toss them onto the shore so they could be found.

One such message was written by a girl named Zoe. She was traveling by ferry from England to Belgium on September 12, 1990. Her message read: "Dear finder, my name is Zoe Lemon. Please would you write to me, I would like it a lot. I am 10 years old and I like ballet, playing the flute and the piano. I have a hamster called Sparkle and a fish called Speckle." She put her message in a bottle and threw it overboard into the ocean. Twenty-three years later, Zoe's parents received

a letter from a Dutch couple. It said: "Dear Zoe, yesterday, on one of my many walks with my wife along the

Memory Verse

I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. Job 23:12

Key Thought

Messages from God are treasured finds which we should value highly.

Lesson Discussion

- Do you save your old cards or letters? If so, why?
- What was the greatest sermon recorded for us to read today? Why was it so great?
- Is it important to "find" the word of God? Talk about how we do this.
- What should we "do" with the messages of God? Give some practical ways we can remember His messages.

dikes, looking among the debris thrown by the sea, I found a little plastic bottle containing your message." Zoe would have been 34 years old when she finally received a reply to this message! What an exciting day it must have been for her!

One of the greatest messages of all time was about 2000 words long and taught by Jesus Christ, Son of God, a little over 2000 years ago.

While He didn't write His message on a piece of paper, roll it up, put it in a bottle, and throw it out to sea, God preserved the message!

On that long-ago day, crowds of people pressed close together, longing to hear Jesus' words. Seeing the crowds, perhaps His eyes softened with love, even while His heart burned with the message that had brought Him from Heaven to earth. He did not teach a random, rambling, boring sermon that day! His sermon contained 107 verses recorded in Matthew chapters five, six, and seven.

As the people intently listened, the first words of this most important message were: "Blessed are..."

His words echoed off the Judean hillside and into the ears of the waiting people. The currents of time bring us that VERY same message today across the ocean! The "bottle isn't broken" and the words aren't smeared by water. The message is still clear.

Over the next few weeks, our lessons will explore the portion of this great sermon that deals with "The Beatitudes." The word beatitude comes from the Latin word beatitudo which means Blessed are. Jesus talked about how happy, fortunate and well-off people will be who choose to live their lives with these following characteristics: "Blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are they that mourn; blessed are the meek; blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness; blessed are the merciful; blessed are the pure in heart; blessed are the peacemakers, and blessed are they which are persecuted."

Rather than having received a Message in a Bottle, we have received a Message from the Bible. What will we do with it? This is what the prophet Jeremiah said: "Your words were found and I did eat them."

God took a lot of trouble to send us a message through His words. As we find His words, let's eat them, digest them, and grow by them!

He wants us to be blessed and happy!

Sister Julie Elwell



THE BEATTITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.

TO THE FINDER: THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM JESUS. IF YOU FIND THIS, I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

MY ADDRESS: PRAYER

PRACTICE YOUR MEMORIZATION!

Work with your class to memorize these important verses! Jesus wants us to remember the promises He made to us, and what we need to do in order to receive the blessings of those promises.

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Blessed are the Poor in Spirit Riches by Poverty



"He opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:2-3

The people of Judah and the surrounding areas crowded together to hear the words of Jesus. On that long-ago day, they didn't realize that they had a front-row seat to the greatest sermon ever taught. It is a sermon that has been preserved and carried to us on the currents of time. It is life-changing and is just waiting for you and me to read, study and learn by it. Close your eyes and hear Jesus' words!

The very first life-changing truth Jesus taught was this: "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

To be "poor" in this sentence refers to a person who lives in absolute poverty, is destitute, and has to resort to begging. Jesus didn't mean our happiness requires us to stand on a street corner wearing dirty, tattered clothes, holding out a container, and hoping someone will drop in a few coins so we can buy food. To the contrary, He promised to always take care of our physical

Memory Verse

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Psalms 34:18

Key Thought

Recognizing our need of God makes us truly rich.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss what it means to be poor in spirit.
- Can a person have a lot of money and really be poor? How?
- Discuss the difference between the Pharisee and tax collector.
- In what ways do we need God?

needs. True poverty means more than how much money we have in our wallet.

Jesus wants us to understand how much we need Him in our hearts.

Jesus does not want us to be filled with pride. Some people think they are better than everyone else. They like to brag about themselves. They think they are better looking, smarter, and more popular than other people. Maybe some in the crowd listening to Jesus' sermon thought in that way.

Job 25:6 refers to humans as worms. Worms are small, helpless, covered and filled with dirt. The good news is that another scripture says, "Fear not, you worm... I am the one who helps you, says the Lord. I am the one who will save you." To be poor in spirit is to recognize we are just like a worm.

Jesus gave this parable to help us understand pride and humility: Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and one was a tax collector.

Pharisees were teachers of the law and knew a lot about God's word. When the Pharisee prayed, he thought only about how good he was. He self-righteously stood tall, lifting his head up to heaven and uttered these words: "God, I thank you that I am not bad like other people. I am glad I am not bad like robbers and cheaters. I am glad I am not bad like that tax collector over there. I am good. I give a lot of money to the poor and I pray a lot."

Tax collectors sometimes cheated people and did not have very many friends. The tax collector's prayer was very different from the Pharisee's prayer. He did not stand where everyone could see and hear him. When he prayed, he kept his head down and wouldn't even lift his eyes to heaven. He hit his chest and sorrowfully prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Which prayer do you think God heard? Jesus said the tax collector went home saved (or justified).

He said those who are humble will be lifted up and those who are proud will be brought low.

The "poor in spirit" were promised "the kingdom of heaven." This is more than just an eternal existence in heaven after we die. Jesus promised to fill our hearts with peace and joy while we are still living on earth. While we may or may not have a lot of money in our wallet, when we recognize how much we need Jesus, we will truly be rich.

Sister Julie Elwell

THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR

For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 18:14b

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1 S	2 V	3 T	4 K	5 Q	6 B
7 W	8 H	9 C	10 R	11 M	12 L
13 D	14 O	15 U	16 G	17 A	18 Z
19 F	20 E	21 X	22 P	23 Y	24 J
25 I	26 N				

22-17-10-17-6-12-20

8-20-17-2-20-26

11-20-10-9-23

20-21-17-12-3

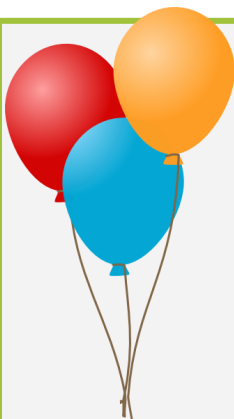
3-20-11-22-12-20

8-15-11-6-12-20

22-10-17-23

1-25-26-26-20-10

MERCY	EXALT
PARABLE	HEAVEN
SINNER	TEMPLE
PRAY	HUMBLE



Teachers:

Give each student a plain balloon. Show students how a deflated balloon is pliable. You can stretch it, wrap it around things, put it inside other things, pull it over smaller things. Then have everyone blow up their balloons. Talk about how it is no longer flexible. It is puffed up now, and can only be one shape. It is only able to be used for certain things.

What kind of balloon are you?

A puffed up person is not as useful to God as a flexible, pliable, humble person. Humility makes us flexible, useable, and moldable in God's work. It is only when we are small and "poor in spirit" that we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven.



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Junior Sunday School ■ April 22, 2018

Blessed are They That Mourn Sincerely Sorry



The crowds eagerly listened as Jesus taught the greatest sermon ever recorded. The second beatitude (or blessing) He gave was this:

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." —Matthew 5:4

How can we be blessed and mourn at the same time? It seems backwards! Let's consider the following story:

While Jesus taught the people in Galilee, a proud Pharisee named Simon came to listen. Simon wanted to catch Jesus doing something wrong, so he invited Him to his house for dinner. Jesus accepted the invitation. While they were eating, an uninvited guest entered the room. She looked around until she found Jesus.

Kneeling down at His feet, she wept with a sorrowful heart for the sins she had committed.

Memory Verse

Godly sorrow worketh
repentance to salvation...
therefore we were
comforted in your
comfort.

2 Corinthians 7:10a and 13a

Key Thought

Sincere sorrow for our sins,
when confessed, will bring
the comfort of Jesus.

As her tears fell, she wiped His feet with her hair. She poured expensive perfume on them and kissed them.

As Simon watched, he thought to himself, "If Jesus knew what kind of woman this was, he

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss the difference between sincere sorrow and "fake" sorrow.
- Where did the sinful woman go with her sins? Did it help? How?
- Talk about how you feel if you have done wrong. Is it worth it to sin?
- The best friend we have is Jesus. How can He use YOU to be a friend to others?

would not let her touch him." Jesus knew what he was thinking. He said, "Simon, when I came into your house, you did not wash my feet, greet me with a kiss, or anoint my head with oil like you did your friends. Yet, this woman has kissed my feet, washed them with her tears, and poured costly perfume on them."

He then turned to the woman and said, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

No doubt this sorrowful, sinful woman left the room comforted—with a smile on her face and a spring in her step.

Mourning is more than just crying tears. People cry for different reasons. If it is either very hot or very cold, tears may come to the eyes. A piece of dust in the eye will cause tears. Happiness or sadness also cause tears. Some people even shed "crocodile tears," insincere or fake tears. It was an ancient belief that crocodiles, to lure their prey, would weep. The unsuspecting prey would come close, only to be caught and rapidly devoured, again with a show of tears. (Crocodiles really do weep when they eat, but not because they are sad. Look it up!) Jesus wants more than insincere or "fake" sorrow from us when we have done wrong. He wants real heart sorrow.

Sins are heavy. They weight us down, much like a backpack stuffed full of books, papers, binders and other supplies. Sometimes people don't want to stop sinning, even if carrying their sins is very heavy. Either they don't think they can or they are having too much "fun." There is no blessing promised for that kind of an attitude.

To truly mourn our sins means we need to find Jesus, fall at His feet, and tell Him we are sorry.

If you bow down at a chair, by your bed, or an altar of prayer, Jesus will be there! Jesus then promised to comfort us—just like He did the sinful woman.

Sometimes we just need comfort because hard things happen. Maybe we feel left out; maybe a friend or loved one has died; maybe we are just having a bad day. Stuffed animals, a favorite warm blanket and even a hug helps to comfort us in those situations. Jesus uses other things and people to bring us comfort at times. But never forget this: One of the reasons Jesus came from Heaven to Earth was to "comfort them that mourn." Talking to Jesus makes everything better. Never forget to go to Him first! Then we have a job to do. The world is full of hurting people. We should always be looking for ways to be a friend and a comfort to others!

Sister Julie Elwell

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU READ?

The following sentences are from the lesson. See if you can fill in the blanks without going back through the lesson! If you need reminders, there is a word list to choose from below (some words are used twice).



The second beatitude is: Blessed are they that _____ for they shall be _____.

The sinful woman _____ Jesus and washed His _____ with her _____.

"When I came into your house, you did not _____, greet me _____, or _____ with oil."

The sinful left _____ and with a _____.

Jesus wants more than _____ sorrow when we have done wrong. He wants _____.

To truly _____ means we fall at _____ and tell Him _____.

One of the reasons Jesus _____ was to _____.

- Anoint my head
- Came from heaven to earth
- Comfort those that mourn
- Comfort
- Feet
- Found
- Hair
- Insincere
- Jesus' feet
- Mourn
- Real sorrow
- Smile on her face
- Wash my feet
- We are sorry
- With a smile on her face



Materials:

- Black construction paper
- Brightly colored tempera paints
- Eye droppers
- Paintbrushes

Directions:

- Fill an eye dropper with a paint color of your choice.
- Let the splashes of color fall in random designs onto the black background.
- Use the paintbrushes to enhance the design if desired.

Joy in Sadness

Sometimes, we cry tears of mourning. We may be mourning a loved one who has passed away, a broken friendship, or even our own sins and wrong-doings. The brightly colored paint is kind of like those tears of mourning. All together, those tears can be used by God to create a beautiful masterpiece out of your life. He wants to bring good even out of our hardest moments.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 29, 2018



Blessed are the Meek Strength Under Control

As Jesus continued teaching the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke these words: *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”*

Meekness is a little word with a big meaning! Many people think meekness is weakness. In a world where people are taught to stick up for themselves, to be “meek” is not popular. But guess what?! Meekness doesn’t mean weakness at all. In fact, it means *strength* under God’s control.

When Jesus used the word *meek*, the people listening understood what He meant. Back then, the word was used by farmers to describe a wild horse who had been trained to submit to his master. Sailors used the word *meek* to describe a gentle breeze.

Both of these definitions describe strength under control.

The sailor harnesses the power of the wind using his sails so his boat can move. The farmer trains his horses so he can use their strength in farm work. The wind doesn’t become weak when the sailor uses it to sail, neither does the horse become weak when he does farm work.

Memory Verse

For the Lord taketh
pleasure in his people: he
will beautify the meek
with salvation.

Psalms 149:4

Key Thought

Meekness is not weakness;
it is strength under God’s
control.

Lesson Discussion

- What did meekness mean to the people to whom Jesus was teaching? (*Hint: wind, horses*)
- Describe how Moses and Jesus acted out meekness.
- In what situations do you feel like fighting for your way?
- What do you think it means to inherit the earth? What will God give us as we give ourselves to Him?

When Jesus pronounced a blessing on the meek, He was talking about people who gave their strength (their lives and energy) to Him!

Moses was meek above all men on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3). Moses made mistakes in his youth (like killing a man), but he learned later to totally depend on God. He had the tremendous job of leading over 2.4 million people out of Egypt. No longer did he try to take things into his own hands as he had in his youth. Even when the people were rude and challenged his authority, Moses did not say, “Don’t you know who I am? Who are you to question me?!” Instead, over and over he fell on his face before God asking for help. Over and over he “did all that the Lord commanded of him.” The result was that the LORD, the Creator of the earth “spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.”

Jesus showed us how to be meek in an extraordinary way! Before His crucifixion, many lies were spoken about Him by men who were jealous of Him. They spit on Him and made fun of Him. Rather than show them who was really boss, Jesus restrained Himself and did not answer back harshly; in fact, He didn’t answer back at all. Eventually, they unfairly put Him on a cross to die. The mob jeered and said, “He saved others but He cannot save Himself.” The truth was, Jesus *could* have saved Himself had He wanted to; but He believed in His Father so much that He—the powerful, strong, Son of God—submitted Himself to God’s greater plan.

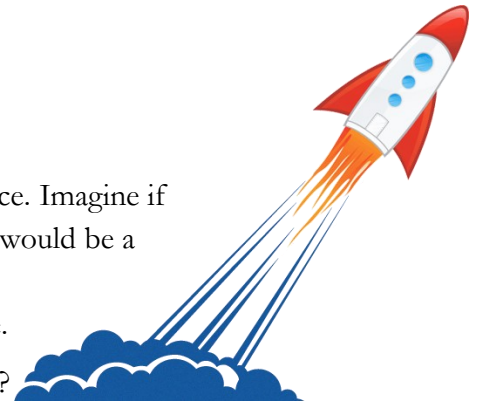
Incredibly, in the greatest show of strength seen before or since, He broke the bands of death and rose from the grave three days after He died. Talk about the power of meekness!

Let’s remember Moses and Jesus and learn the secret of meekness in our own lives. Let’s not be like porcupines! When porcupines are threatened, they stomp their feet, hiss, puff up, and shake their 30,000 quills. When someone makes us angry or we want to use our strength to do what we want to do, we need to STOP and ask God for help. It does not show weakness on our parts to stay cool when someone else is hot. Meekness does not insist that we always have our way. Meekness forgives rather than holds a grudge. When we feel like arguing and fighting and being “big and strong,” meekness will tell us otherwise. Remember, it is the strong person who demonstrates a meek attitude.

Sister Julie Elwell

THREE... TWO... ONE...

BLASTOFF!!!



Enormous amounts of fuel are used to propel rockets from the earth into space. Imagine if this fuel exploded out of control. It would kill the people inside the rocket! It would be a destructive force. The fuel is released in just the right way, at just the right time, to cause the rocket to take off from the launching pad and fly into space.

Rockets are a perfect picture of meekness. What is the definition of meekness? Strength under control. It is not weakness. A meek person is not a loser, geek, or weakling. A truly meek person possesses a lot of strength and character inside, but chooses to release it in just the right way at just the right time.

Directions: Put the letter tiles in order to decode the message!

I S	E K N	E S S	O L .	. M E	A K N	S T	C O
K N E	U N	S S	M E E	R E N	D E R	N O T	I S
W E	G T H	N T R	E S S				

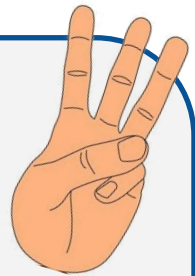


Can You Hold a Bubble?

Materials: Bubble solution and wands
As you blow bubbles out of the wand, you'll find that if you blow too hard, the bubbles will

automatically pop. If you wave your wand or hand through a bubble that's floating in mid-air, it will pop then too. But if you blow gently, the bubbles will float off the wand successfully. Can you catch a bubble on your wand or finger? Practice moving gently while trying to catch a bubble without popping it!

The first three Beatitudes give us these challenges:



1. To recognize we are nothing (to be poor in spirit)
2. To be sincerely sorry for our sins (to mourn)
3. To give our lives (our strength) completely to God, believing that He will take care of us (to be meek)

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 6, 2018



Hungry and Thirsting after Righteousness

Teachers: Place 20-30 random items on the table. Any one of the items could potentially become an idol, but most can just be miscellaneous material things. Give the students a full minute to memorize as many of the items under the towel as they can and then cover them up again. (*Give some time.*) Pass out paper and pencil and have them write down as many items as they can remember.

As the people continued to listen to Jesus teach, His voice echoed off the hillside with the fourth powerful beatitude of the Sermon on the Mount: *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."* What did He mean?

Is there anyone who had dog food to eat for breakfast and drank out of a leaky cup? Those are pretty ridiculous questions. *Of course you didn't!* Dog food is for dogs and drinking out of a cup with holes in it just isn't....well, very smart! Hopefully you had something more nutritious, yummy, and filling—maybe some combination of eggs, toast, cereal, yogurt, fruit juice or milk! In the

same way our physical bodies get hungry and need food to grow and be healthy, our hearts—

Memory Verse

And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.** John 6:35

Key Thought

When we have the desire to do right in God's eyes, He will make sure we are always spiritually satisfied and blessed.

Lesson Discussion

- What is your favorite food? Talk about a memorable time you got to eat it.
- Talk about what kinds of "food" the devil serves. Is it smart to touch his poisoned food?
- Was the blacksmith a happy man? Why or why not?
- Why was the woman at the well so happy?
- Will we always enjoy all the food set before us by God? Why should we eat it anyway? Will it fill us up or leave us empty?

the spiritual side of us—crave *righteousness*. To be righteous simply means to be "right" with God (*have our sins forgiven*) and to live the way He desires. He then promised to fill the hungry cravings of our heart with the love, joy and peace which only He can give.

The problem is, many people are trying to fill up on things other than righteousness. They are living the way *they* want to, selfishly leaving God out. They don't think about God very often and hardly ever pray. They would rather have the approval of their friends than the smile of God. Instead of focusing on feeding their spirits with heavenly food, they eat some combination of dog food and junk food at the devil's table and drink out of cups that hold no water. They don't get full and they aren't happy.

In the book of Isaiah, this picture is painted for us: A blacksmith is sitting by a fire in his workshop. All the tools of his trade are around him as he creates a graven image (*idol*) for the people to worship. He holds the graven image with his tongs and sets it in the coals of the fire, getting it hot. He then takes it back out, hammering and shaping it with his strong arms. And yet, Isaiah said this blacksmith was hungry and weak; he did not drink any water and was so very tired. Perhaps his stomach growled even as sweat poured down his face. (*Isaiah 44:10;12*) Pouring our energy into the idols of this world will leave us spiritually tired, weak, hungry and thirsty.

Contrast that sad picture with this happy, glad one: It was about noon. The sun was out and Jesus was waiting by a well for His disciples who had gone into town to buy food. A woman approached the well with her bucket. Jesus broke an unspoken rule when He spoke to her and said, "Give me to drink." Surprised, the woman said, "Why are you asking me for a drink?" Normally, the Jews did not talk to the Samaritans. Jesus surprised the woman a second time by saying, "If you drink this water, you will be thirsty again, but if you drink the living, everlasting water I offer, you will never thirst again." He began to explain that *He* was the promised Saviour. Whoever worshipped Him (*not the dead idols of religion or graven images of the land*), would never thirst again! How excited this sin-sick and spiritually tired woman was to hear such good news.

The greatest chef of all time is God. We have been invited to eat at His bountiful table laden with good food and thirst-quenching drink! He always prepares the exact food we need. Let's never turn our noses up at His food because it will fill us and leave us happy and satisfied.

Sister Julie Elwell

LET JESUS FILL YOU!

Verse 1

Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Savior speaking:
"Draw from my well that never shall run dry".

Verse 2

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

Verse 3

So, my brother, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray:

Chorus

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more--
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

List four things Jesus wants to fill us with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Use this space to write down everything you remember from the table:

If the things on the table are here today and gone tomorrow in our memories, then how foolish is it to spend so much of our time, money, thoughts, and energy on them? It's as foolish as trying to build waterproof containers out of materials that are not waterproof.



Cisterns!

What is a cistern? It is a waterproof container used for holding liquids, mainly water. They are built to catch and store rain water and are usually used in places where water is scarce and may be used for cooking, washing, and watering crops. Jeremiah 2:13 talks about the children of Israel who "traded" the true God for things that were not gods at all. They left the true fountain of living water (*God*) and dug cisterns that could hold no water (*worshipped idols and lived selfishly*).

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 13, 2018



Blessed are the Merciful A God of Second Chances

Jesus' words continued to echo off the hillside as He preached the Sermon on the Mount. *"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."* What is mercy? It is extending forgiveness when someone actually deserves to be punished. It is giving someone a second chance—and sometimes a third, fourth, fifth and sixth chance. Let's look at a couple of examples where God showed great mercy.

Peter failed miserably. Before Jesus was crucified, Peter looked him in the eye and told him very convincingly, "Even though all men are offended because of you, I will never be offended." What strong words! Jesus knew better. He told Peter, "This night before the cock crows you will deny me three times." Peter again declared, "Though I should die with you, I will not deny you." Later on, Jesus was roughly taken by the mob. Sure enough, throughout the night a damsel, another maid, and others that stood by said to Peter, "You were with this Jesus of Nazareth." With the same forcefulness Peter had assured Jesus he would never deny him, he now vehemently said, "I don't know that man!" In the quiet stillness that followed

Memory Verse

For thy mercy is great unto
the heavens, and thy truth
unto the clouds.

Psalms 57:10

Key Thought

Mercy is greater than
justice.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss why Peter and Paul deserved punishment. How were they shown mercy?
- To what does God liken His mercy and

how high is it? (Hint: See memory verse.) Does God stay angry forever?

- Is it hard to forgive others and show them mercy sometimes? Why?
- Can you remember a time you sinned and needed the mercy of God or someone else? How can these memories help us forgive others?

this outcry, the cock crowed, signaling the dawn. Peter remembered Jesus' words and realized what he had done. He went out and wept bitterly. *Surely Peter deserved a great punishment!*

But no! After Jesus' crucifixion, three days passed. Women sorrowfully made their way to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, only to find His body gone and an angel in His place. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid. Jesus is not here. He is risen. Go tell his disciples AND PETER that Jesus will see them in Galilee." What comforting, happy news this must have been to Peter's ears.

Peter became an unashamed, powerful preacher on behalf of the crucified Christ—all because of God's mercy.

The Apostle Paul called himself a Chief—Chief of Sinners! He spoke irreverently and disrespectfully of the new Christian converts. He worked diligently to persecute, kill, insult and hurt these converts. He held the coat of Stephen as others stoned him to death because of his faith in God. *Surely Paul, the "greatest of sinners" deserved the greatest of punishments!*

But no! One day Paul was walking on the road to Damascus with the intent of doing more harm. A great light shone from heaven. Jesus spoke to him, wonderfully saved him from his horrible sins, and completely changed his life.

Paul became a great missionary for the risen Christ—all because of God's mercy.

What about you? Can you think of times where you sinned? Maybe you lied, cheated, became angry, or just had a terrible attitude. Have you ever carried heavy guilt and you knew it was your fault? *Surely you deserved punishment for your sins!*

But no! Although it displeases God when we sin, He does not stay angry forever. There are consequences for sin—Parents have a duty to discipline wrong-doing; God does the same thing. It doesn't mean we will never "get in trouble." But—He always delights in showing us mercy. He is more ready to forgive and love us than destroy us. Each time we kneel in genuine repentance, God fills our hearts with the warmth of His spirit.

We can grow into great men and women of God—all because of God's mercy through Jesus.

In the *same way*, it is our job to love, forgive and show mercy to siblings, friends, teachers and even our parents when they mess up. When we *feel* like punishing them with harsh words, "the silent treatment" or worse, remember the second chances we have been given!

Sister Julie Elwell



Edison's Second Lightbulb

Thomas A. Edison was working on a crazy contraption called a "light bulb" and it took a whole team of men 24 straight hours to put just one together. The story goes that when Edison was finished with one light bulb, he gave it to a young boy helper, who nervously carried it up the stairs. Step by step he cautiously watched his hands, obviously frightened of dropping such a

priceless piece of work. You've probably guessed what happened by now; the poor young fellow dropped the bulb at the top of the stairs. It took the entire team of men twenty-four more hours to make another bulb. Finally, tired and ready for a break, Edison was ready to have his bulb carried up the stairs. He gave it to the same young boy who dropped the first one. That's true forgiveness and mercy.

A SECOND CHANCE


Materials:

- Three bean bags
- Two bowls
- Masking tape

Game:

Use masking tape to make a line for all the children to line up behind. Place two bowls on the floor; one closer and one farther away. All the students will try to toss the bean bags into the bowls. If a bean bag lands in the first bowl, try to toss the remaining bean bags into the bowl that is farther away. Regardless of whether you miss the bowl or make it, get the bean bags and hand them to the next person in line. Those that miss the bowls get to go to the end of the line and try again until they make it. Play until all players have at least made it into the first bowl. (*Keep moving the first bowl closer if some children are having a hard time making it.*)

Application:



Today's game shows us that sometimes we need more than one chance to succeed. We should never give up. God knows we will fail, at times, but He is always willing to show us mercy, forgive us when we truly repent, and give us another chance. He loves us **THAT** much. We need to show others the same mercy when they mess up and need a second chance, as well.



Junior Sunday School ■ May 20, 2018

Blessed are the Pure in Heart Eyes Wide Open

If you could climb into a time machine and had the chance to see any person in the history of time, who would it be? Would you like to see George Washington, the first president of the United States? Maybe you would like to peek in on Helen Keller, a blind and deaf girl for whom communication was terribly hard. If you love the outdoors, maybe you would like to see and go exploring with Lewis and Clark, traveling in boats on rivers and meeting many interesting fur trappers and Indians along the way.

We won't have a chance to meet many of these people, but we do have the incredible and exciting opportunity of seeing the most important "person" of all time! Go outside at night and look up at the millions of stars. Would you like to see the One who flung them into space? Would you like to see the Rich One who owns cattle on 1000 hills? Would you like to see the One who knows how many grains of sand are on the beach and how much the waters of all the oceans weigh?

We don't have to get in a time machine and

Memory Verse

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart. Psalms 24:3-4

Key Thought

A clean heart allows us to see God.

Lesson Discussion

- If soap and water do not make our hearts pure, how do they become clean?
- How do we see God? Sleepily with half-closed eyes? What does it really mean to see God?
- What did the Pharisees do wrong and what did Jesus compare them to?
- What would have happened if Jacob had gotten distracted from trying to receive a blessing from God?

travel back in time! We can see Him now—we can know Him today. His name is God.

What an extraordinary chance to see and have an audience with the King of the Universe!

Jesus told us how we could do this as He continued to preach the Sermon on the Mount. He said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*" When we have recognized how much we need God and have asked forgiveness for our sins we will gaze with our eyes wide open at God as if staring at something remarkable—we won't casually pass over Him with our eyes, but we will really SEE him! (*That is the definition of the word "see" in this verse.*)

If you tell your friends you are going to your grandparent's house to see them for a holiday, you don't mean that you are going to sit and just stare at them across the table. You mean that you are going to interact with them. You are going to talk with them. You are going to laugh with them and hug them. That is what Jesus meant.

When we have a heart that wants to follow God more than any of our other activities and it is clean from sin, we have a relationship with Him.

We can pray anytime and will feel His love and comfort. We learn to know His voice through Bible memorization. We feel His quiet heart-nudges. Eventually, when we get to heaven, we will actually get to see Him face-to-face!

Jesus told us the Pharisees and scribes acted "right" on the outside. They gave money to the poor and prayed often. He told them the *outside* of their cup and plate was clean, but the inside was dirty and full of sin. He wanted their hearts to be pure, as well!

Sin puts smudge marks and dirt all over our spiritual eyes and makes them so dark we are blind and can't see—just like the Pharisees.

We should be like Jacob of the Old Testament. He realized how much he needed God, so one night He wrestled God all night long. He did not become distracted by a dying fire, by his braying mules or by the beautiful stars in the sky. Toward morning time Jacob had victory and God blessed Him. Jacob said, "I have seen God face-to-face." When we focus our attention on serving God with a pure heart, we too will see God.

Sister Julie Elwell

PURE IN HEART

T H O Q R D R V W P S E W E P D R J J P E O T E Y B E P U A E K W N Q O I
 T Z Z J S I R K L R P Q M N P O P H A R I S E E S O J F L L E Q K W V U Z
 Q P U Y I Z M R A E U C S I K R F S J I D H H X E C O I B F G M K U E T V
 G V M U X P M T H C A H U H C T E F G O C F S K U A O A W K B K M H N D Q
 D K A A R G S J U M D J Q C E X D S V E P V A N K J K F T L T H J K A O Q
 N O I T A C I N U M M O C A H L Z M I W U Y Z R O R A T I P N K Y H A O O
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 S A C H Q V H C K J J K C E U U B T N N E T B M B O T X A C V I G E R S X
 T A M P E T C A R E T N I M Q V J P A S U N E K F F T A H E N C L L Y R O
 Y G N R Q M E V I J R X P I E U E C C C Y R T I D Q S I L N P P M V Q U B
 U V S D G B C L Z C G I T T O C E A N X U B T Q U T R P U E N U P G E D Q
 X E G D I D Q V W U Y F X G C K T W D B W O G H N T H O V N R B C W Z L E

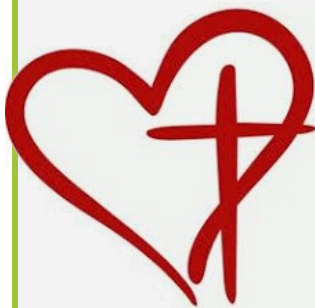
CATTLE
COMMUNICATION
INTERACT

JACOB
OCEAN
OUTDOORS

PHARISEES
PRESIDENT
PURE

RELATIONSHIP
REMARKABLE
SAND

STARS
TIMEMACHINE
UNIVERSE



Jesus Purifies


Materials: Bowl of dry beans or rice with small objects mixed in. This could include jacks, marbles, small action figures or beads. It must

also contain a small cross.

Directions: The children should sift through the rice using a spoon and remove all the small objects except for the cross. They must leave the rice and cross in the original bowl. This

represents the way to have a pure heart is to have Jesus as our main focus. Discuss distractions “hidden” in our lives that could take our focus away from Jesus. While Jesus purifies our hearts through His blood, it is our job to keep our focus on the cross and away from distractions that would pollute our heart. If you want to make it a game, the children can work in teams or individually—the one to remove all objects except for the cross wins.

Blessed are the Peacemakers A Godly Weapon



Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:9; Isaiah 9:6; John 13:35; 2 Corinthians 10:4

A very familiar verse in Isaiah calls Jesus the “Prince of Peace.” In the Sermon on the Mount, the Prince of Peace exhorted His followers to be peacemakers if they wanted to be children of God.

Jesus lived out a life of peaceful interactions and attitudes—there isn’t one instance in the Bible of Him being overtaken by ungodly anger.

What an incredible testimony!

Have you learned about the American Civil War at school? It is one of the 34 main wars the United States has been involved in, and the number of lives lost during those four years of war time almost equal the number of lives lost during *all other American wars, combined*. The casualties of the Civil War equal about 625,000 people. The casualties of *all 33 other wars* equals about 695,000. What a tragic, heartbreaking statistic!

There is, however, a story that came out of that war that is applicable to your life. It’s about a man who earned the name “The

Angel of Marye’s Heights.” The man’s name was Richard Kirkland and he was a soldier in the Confederate Army. During the Battle at Fredericksburg, he and his fellow soldiers sat behind a stone wall at Marye’s Heights where they had taken cover; here they listened to the cries of the Union soldiers dying on the battlefield. After a while, Kirkland couldn’t listen to the suffering any longer and asked his superior officer for permission to take water to the soldiers. No white flag of surrender was waved, but as the story goes, Richard Kirkland climbed that stone wall with canteens full of water and gave drinks to his enemies who had been wounded on the battlefield. Allegedly, no Union soldiers took a shot at him and he made it safely back behind the wall after ministering to the needs of the dying soldiers.

Do you ever feel like Richard Kirkland, sitting behind a wall and listening to gunfire between two opposing forces? Maybe your siblings or parents are arguing, maybe there are kids fighting on the playground, or *maybe* you have even taken a few shots yourself. Did you know that Jesus wants you to display an attitude of love and peace instead of one of combat? He told His disciples, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” That sounds an awful lot like, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God,” doesn’t it?

Are you willing to lay down your “weapon” in a conflict to bring about peace?

Ask God to give you the strength to set aside your harsh words, anger, and self-serving attitudes in order to resolve conflicts—between other people, and between someone else and yourself!

In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” Promoting peace in the relationships around you is one of your most valuable “weapons.”

It is not a weapon our self-centered society adopts because it often requires laying down your own opinions and thoughts. However, it is only by doing that very thing, by letting your own way of thinking fall by the wayside, that God’s perfect peace can come on the scene.

Suddenly, *you* will be the one “climbing over the stone wall” in order to bring healing and hope to those who are dying around you.

If you let God develop this attitude in your life, it will become obvious to those watching that you are Jesus’ disciple, and you can be at peace yourself, knowing that you are a child of God.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Memory Verse

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

Key Thought

A peacemaking attitude is a weapon of Godly warfare.

Lesson Discussion

- How do you think Richard Kirkland felt climbing over the stone wall?
- Do you think it takes courage to be the peacemaker in a tense situation?
- What are some practical ways you can make peace in everyday situations?
- How does having a “peacemaking attitude” separate you from the world?

RIGHT VERSUS WRONG

Conflict is hard, and our natural reactions can sometimes make it worse! Thankfully, God can help us react to conflict in peaceful and problem-solving ways. Use the chart below to sort out which responses are “peace making” and which responses make the conflict worse.

PEACEMAKING

CONFLICT MAKING

Apologize	Arguing	Asking Adults	Blame	Confessing a Wrong	Denial	Fighting
-----------	---------	---------------	-------	--------------------	--------	----------

Gossip	Overlooking an Offense	Put-Downs	Run Away	Soft Answers	Talking Calmly
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Act It Out!

Knowing exactly how to react to situations as a peacemaker can sometimes be a challenge. Read the following paragraph and

think of creative ways you can be the peacemaker, and then act it out with your classmates!

Alan is in fifth grade and he likes to be a leader. One day, he chooses to pick on a boy in his class who is smaller. That boy's name is Jeff. On the playground, Alan pulls Jeff's hair and punches him in the arm, then trips him and calls him mean names. None of the teachers are watching and most of the kids who are watching are too afraid to tell anyone about it. They think Alan will do the same thing to them if he knows they tattled!

On another day, you are playing with Jeff. When you see Alan coming over, you wonder what you can do to stop him from hurting Jeff again.



Junior Sunday School ■ June 3, 2018



Blessed are the Persecuted Jesus Stands for You

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:10, 44; Romans 14:17; Acts 7:55-56; 1 John 3:13

Have you ever been made fun of for being a Christian? Girls, maybe kids at school notice that you dress modestly and laugh when they think you're not looking. Boys, maybe your buddies wonder why you don't say bad words or tell dirty jokes. It never feels good to be the object of someone's mean-spirited teasing or ridicule.

Did you know that Jesus talked about this very subject in the Sermon on the Mount? He said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." That thought seems a little backwards to our human thinking.

How can being persecuted, or being treated badly, cause a person to be blessed?

Let's look back at the story of Stephen. He was a man of great righteousness. In fact, just before he died, he delivered a sermon to the high priests of Israel that made them *ashamed* of the ungodliness that ruled in their hearts. So powerful were his words that they decided to take him outside the city and kill him. That is some serious

Memory Verse

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Key Thought

Jesus will give you peace, comfort, and strength for every hard moment.

Lesson Discussion

- Can you recall a time when you were persecuted for being a Christian? What happened?
- Why do you think Jesus was standing as He watched Stephen suffer?
- What does the Holy Ghost bring you during times of persecution?
- How should you treat people who persecute you?

persecution! However, the end of Stephen's story matches today's verse exactly. Acts 7:55-56 says, "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." It's so easy to focus on the fact that Stephen's life ended in such a terrible and abrupt way. However, it is far more important to see what a blessing Stephen received when he saw Jesus *standing at the right hand of God!* That very day, the actual kingdom of heaven was Stephen's to enjoy.

Did Jesus mean that we would have to suffer persecution until we die before we can enjoy the kingdom of heaven? Paul said in Romans, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The verse in Acts says Stephen was filled with the Holy Ghost during his persecution. That means that no matter what you have to go through, you will have the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit with you the entire time! Jesus promised us more than an eternal existence in heaven. He promised to fill our hearts with peace and joy while we are still living on earth.

The world tries so hard to smother the light of God shining out of your life. Most likely, you will not suffer persecution like Stephen did, but the devil will not allow you to live in this world comfortably as a Christian. John wrote in his first epistle, "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

Christianity does not allow any room for evil. Equally, those who are evil, the enemy chief among them, will not allow any room for righteousness.

Even though it isn't easy, God wants us to go through hard times behaving like a true Christian. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." That's a pretty hard thing to do, but this is what it means to be blessed even while you are persecuted. Only God can give you the strength to react this way.

Jesus won't let you go through hard things powerless or alone.

He will be with you every step of the way to give you grace and strength to be blessed and to possess the kingdom of Heaven.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

VERSE RACE!

Being the one who's different and suffering persecution can be scary. God isn't going to leave you to face those situations alone! Look up these verses and write them in the space provided as a reminder to be courageous.

Psalm 27:1

Joshua 1:9

1 Chronicles 28:20



Faith Crushes Fear

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right

hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10

Materials: 2 plastic water bottles, old glove

Preparation: Draw the word "FEAR" across the knuckles of the old glove

Directions: Tightly cap one of the empty water bottles and remove the cap from the other. During class, put the glove on and make a fist to show the word "FEAR" across your knuckles. Attempt to crush both water bottles with your fist in turn, explaining as you go—the one with the cap won't

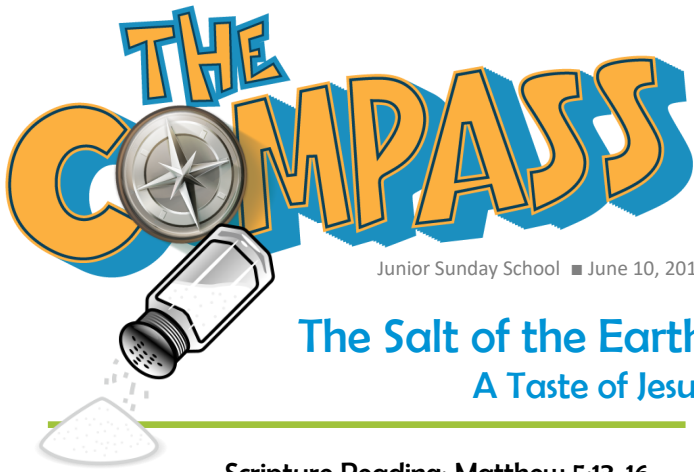
crush, but the one without the cap will.

The water bottle without a cap represents someone who has no faith—they are empty. When fear attempts to crush them, they are easily broken under the blow. The water bottle with the cap represents a person who is filled with faith. When fear attempts to crush them, they have the strength to withstand the blow.

We can't see faith, but we can see a lot of the characteristics it produces such as strength, courage, peace, and self-control. We do not have to be ruled by fear when we know that God will give us all of these things to go through hard times!

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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The Salt of the Earth A Taste of Jesus

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Did you know that salt was used as currency, or a form of money, in ancient Rome? Salt has been withheld by opposing forces as a war tactic, and some slaves were even paid for with salt, which is where the term "worth his salt" comes from. It's hard to imagine that the tiny white grains in the shaker on your dinner table have played such important roles in history and society.

Jesus thought salt was important too. In His Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." What does that mean, you're probably wondering? Why did Jesus want His people to be like salt? He continued to say, "But if the salt hath lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

Although that verse can sound a little confusing, the main idea Jesus was trying to share is pretty simple. He wanted

His followers to add something to the world, much like you add salt to your food. Salt adds flavor—it makes things taste better. In the same way,

Memory Verse

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 14:34-35

Key Thought

Let your life be the means through which others can get a taste of Jesus and thirst after His living water.

Lesson Discussion

- What are the two attributes of salt that we discussed in the lesson today?
- Are there any other characteristics you can think of? Discuss their spiritual application with your class.
- Name three ways people might "get a taste" of Jesus through our lives?
- What was Nicodemus thirsting for?

Jesus wants YOU to add His *flavor*—His perspective, love, forgiveness, mercy, and mindset—to the world around you.

Colossians 4:6 says, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt...." This verse talks about words specifically, and although the concept applies to all areas of our lives, our words or conversation are often our first testimony and impression. Part of our calling as Christians is to be like Christ, and if we allow Him to change our hearts, it will pour out of our own lives into the lives of those around us, adding a little taste of Jesus wherever we go.

Salt also makes people *thirsty*. Before He mentioned being the salt of the world, Jesus said in this sermon that anyone who hungers or *thirsts* after righteousness would be filled.

If our lives are a testimony and an example of Jesus' care and love, people looking will begin to desire what we have.

They will get a little taste of something that satisfies them and will *thirst after the living water* that Jesus offered the woman at the well. What a wonderful blessing it would be for your life to be the means of drawing someone toward Jesus!

There was one man in John 3 who was recorded thirsting after Jesus. He had observed Jesus' way of speaking, living, and teaching. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a man among the hypocritical and self-righteous leaders of the Israelites, who observed something in Jesus that he didn't understand completely, but something for which his soul thirsted. Jesus explained salvation and faith to Nicodemus, a man whose entire life had been devoted to studying the Law of God, but who still lacked *something* in his heart. It was in this very conversation that one of the most often quoted scriptures in the Bible is written. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The salvation message and the incredible and overwhelming love of our Savior is what Jesus meant when He said we were to be the salt of the earth. He wants us, His dedicated followers, to live our lives in such a way that people want to get to know our Master.

It may seem like you are inconsequential, but your life may be the only taste of Jesus that someone ever gets.

Don't lose your savor—let your life be the means of creating a thirst in those around you.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matthew 5:13

The second half of this verse talks about salt losing its savor, or flavor, and being cast out. Salt is a mineral, which means it comes from rocks. Often, however, a salt deposit will lose its flavor on the surface because it has been exposed to the elements. Only the salt that is inside, anchored to the bedrock, will keep its flavor. Use your imagination and think of some ways that YOU, the salt of the earth, could lose your flavor because of the "elements" in the world. Jot down some ideas in the space below, and use the example to get your imagination going.

Element of the world: bad language

If I am not careful, hearing bad language can start to influence the way I think. Instead of having a godly response to a difficult situation, a curse word might pop into my head instead. To help keep my mind from losing its "saltiness," I can be extra careful to read my Bible and pray, that way my mind is filled with Jesus.

Taste Testing!

Materials:

- Salted and unsalted almonds or other nut (these can be purchased at a supermarket in bulk inexpensively)
- Resealable snack bags

Directions: Fill each snack bag with a handful of salted almonds and unsalted almonds. Let the children snack on them while you are reading the lesson or give them out at the end of class time.

Some of these almonds are salted and some are unsalted. Remember when you snack on them that you are called by Jesus to be like the salted almonds. As you mix with the world, your salt will rub off on those around you and add a little taste of Jesus to people without salvation!



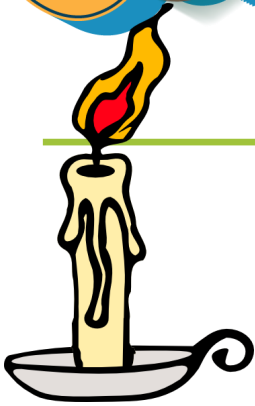
The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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Junior Sunday School ■ June 17, 2018

The Light of the World



Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:14-16; Acts 13:47

The Beatitudes weren't the only thing Jesus talked about in His Sermon on the Mount. Right after He finished talking about the blessings of living a life of salvation, He talked about how His followers

are the salt of the earth (which we learned about last week) and the light of the world. He said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

He had a lot to say about being a light! Does part of that sound like a song you know? "This Little Light of Mine" was written based on these words of Jesus!

Memory Verse

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 8:12

Key Thought

As a Christian, you have the ability and the responsibility to shine the light of Jesus in a dark world.

From a very young age, we learn that our job as Christians is to be a light to the dark world around us.

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss the different ways we use light in our physical lives.
- How do those different uses of light translate to our spiritual

lives?

- Why is it so important that we don't hide our salvation?
- In what ways will you be able to help a fellow Christian by shining your light?

Let's think about how we use light. Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night and tried to walk around your room or house? Unless you are absolutely certain about where everything is, you are pretty likely to run into a piece of furniture or a toy left on the floor!

It's confusing and difficult to make your way around when you can't see, but flipping on a light switch or a flashlight makes all the difference.

Have you learned about photosynthesis in school? Photosynthesis is the process plants use to turn sunlight into energy. Without sunlight, none of our food would be able to grow! Did you know that you also need sunlight for your body to function properly? We aren't like plants—we can *grow* without sunlight, but our bodies absorb vitamin D through sunlight. We need that vitamin to absorb certain nutrients from our food.

Wow! Sometimes it's easy to take something like light for granted, but when you stop to think about it, it's so important to life! Jesus used this analogy because our lives as Christians are so important to the spiritual lives of those living around us. Paul wrote about being a light in Acts 13. He said, "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

Our job is to be the light that enables those who are living without Christ to find their way through a world of darkness and sin.

Jesus doesn't physically live on Earth anymore, and it takes faith to see Him. If a person doesn't have faith, the only way they will catch a glimpse of His beautiful light is through *your life*! The light you shine could be the means of keeping someone from falling into a painful and costly pit of sin. Just like Jesus said in our verse today, He doesn't want us to put our light under a bushel, or a covering, and not let anyone see it. He wants us to use our light to illuminate as much of the world as we possibly can!

Not only will you help those who don't have Jesus, but you can help your fellow Christians. Your light can give a person who is young in the faith an extra boost of faith or spiritual energy, or the ability to understand more of God's ways.

As Christians, it is our job to let others see Jesus through us. He wants our lights to lead many people out of darkness. Don't hide your light. Let it shine!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

BE LIGHT!

Sometimes its hard to think of practical ways we can let our light shine. The poem below is called an acrostic poem. The first letter of each line spells out a phrase! Color this acrostic poem and use it to remind yourself how you can shine your light every day!

BE BOLD FOR JESUS

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

LISTEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

INVITE OTHERS TO CHURCH

GOOD DEEDS

HEARTS THAT ARE OPEN TO GOD

TELL OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS
DONE FOR YOU



Knowledge and Confidence

Light gives us knowledge and confidence. This simple activity will teach you how.

Supplies: Window coverings to darken your Sunday school room OR a blindfold to imitate darkness

Directions: Line your Sunday school chairs up in the middle of the room and push the tables out of the way. Make sure there is enough space between each chair to walk through. Turn the lights off and allow a student to try to weave their way in and out

of the chairs without being able to see where they are going (or if you are using a blindfold, simply blindfold the student.) Notice how hard it is to find your way in the dark! Turn the lights on (or remove the blindfold) and allow the student to try again in full light. What a difference it makes! The student can weave a path through the chairs without tripping or bumping once!

Being able to see gives you a knowledge of the world around you, and with that knowledge comes a confidence that you can make it through the obstacles without getting hurt.

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Junior Sunday School ■ June 24, 2018

Anger Versus Sin



Scripture Reading:

**Matthew 5:21-22; Ephesians 4:26;
Genesis 4:1-16; Proverbs 16:23**

“Be ye angry, and sin not.”

Have you ever heard that phrase? Sometimes, parents use that phrase to help their children remember to control themselves when their siblings make them upset.

The Bible has a lot to say about being angry, and Jesus Himself addressed it when He preached the Sermon on the Mount.

He said, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” That sounds pretty serious! Jesus was saying that the Old Law instructed the people not to kill each other, but He wanted more than just an outward show of control. He wanted His

followers to be able to control their *attitudes and thoughts* as well.

Memory Verse

**For the wrath of man
worketh not the
righteousness of God.**

James 1:20

Key Thought

**Even if you are someone
who becomes angry easily,
God will give you strength
to be slow to anger.**

Lesson Discussion

- Think of a time when you became very angry. Were you able to control yourself?
- Do you think the devil is pleased when we become angry and lash out? How does he use anger against us?
- What are you most tempted to do when you become angry? Is it a godly reaction?
- What can we do to build our self-control and godly impulses?

Being angry in and of itself is not a sin, but lashing out at other people is just as sinful as committing actual murder!

Do you remember a story in the Bible when someone let their anger take over? In one of the very first stories of Genesis, we read about two brothers, Cain and Abel. They were the sons of Adam and Eve, and they both worked hard and made sacrifices to God. Abel’s sacrifice was made with a humbleness of heart that pleased God, but Cain’s sacrifice was made in pride and sin. When God chose to bless Abel’s sacrifice and not his own, Cain was overcome with anger and killed his brother! As a result, God told Cain that he would struggle and labor, but the earth would not yield crops to him, and that he would never have a real home. What a terrible result of letting his temper get the better of him.

Most likely, you will not be tempted to actually murder your brother or sister when they make you upset. But you might be tempted to lash out with words or your hands. You might even keep those outward shows of anger from coming out, but inside your heart and mind, you are harboring bad attitudes and bitterness. To God, either of these options is just as bad as what Cain did to his brother. The verse in Ephesians instructed us that when we are angry, we should not sin. Sometimes, that takes more strength than we have inside, but God is always faithful to provide what we need to live a sin-free life.

Some people struggle with anger more than others. If you are one of those people, don’t let the devil make you feel guilty. God is forgiving and merciful, and He wants you to make it to Heaven more than anything! But remember that He also wants you to be able to improve your control over your anger. It is impossible to do that without praying to Him and asking that He will give you the strength to be gentle and calm *right in the middle of an anger-inducing situation*.

Next time you find yourself becoming angry, stop for a minute and ask God to give you the kind of reaction He will be pleased with. He will answer you!

Proverbs 16:32 says, “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” That verse is saying that if you can control your anger, you are better than a man of impressive might and a man who can conquer an entire city! God values someone who is slow to become angry and able to control their reactions to anger.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

CRACK THE CODE

When we are angry, it is easy to let ugly words and thoughts come out of our mouths! Sometimes, it's better to leave a situation, pray and ask God to help you, and then if you are still struggling, ask a trusted adult to talk through the problem with you. Did you know there is a Bible verse about this? Crack the code below to see what it says!

8 16-1-1-3 20-13-13-2-12-2-13-9 8-3-3 9-7-25

21-7-18-11: 22-20-13 8 24-7-25-2 21-8-18

15-2-2-26-2-13-9 7-13 7-18 13-7-3-3

8-16-13-2-12-24-8-12-11-25. Proverbs 29:11

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
8	22	6	11	2	16	23	9	7	17
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
15	3	21	18	1	26	10	12	25	13
U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
20	4	24	5	14	19				



Anger—It's About Your Reaction

Supplies: Two cans of soda
(Demonstrate outside)

Directions:

- Pass each can around, letting every child mention something that makes them angry, and shaking the can as a demonstration of their anger. Make sure that both cans get shaken an equal amount.
- Take one can and open it immediately, letting the soda explode onto the ground.
- Take the second can and set it on a table to rest for a few minutes while you explain the demonstration. After about five minutes, open the can. It should open normally!

We found a verse in our crack the code activity. What did it say? It said a person who takes time to control their anger will be better off than one who lets it explode out of them. The first can of soda we passed around was an example of someone who doesn't take time to pray or control their anger. With each situation that they came across, they got more and more angry inside, until they finally exploded! The mess was enormous and impossible to clean up. The second can was an example of someone who took a step back from the situation and asked God for a calm spirit and strength to be kind and gentle. When we opened that can, everything was normal! No mess, no clean up. Which can are you?!